

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-11 have been withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a nonelected species; Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite; Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kinoshita; Claims 1-3 and 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Akiba and Claims 4-6 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9-11 have been canceled without prejudice and thus, Claims 1-8 remain active.

Considering first then the Examiner's withdrawal of Claims 9-11 as being drawn to a nonelected species, these claims have now been canceled, without prejudice.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite, it is to be noted that the language referred to by the Examiner with respect to Claim 1 has now been deleted and the language of Claim 1 has now been amended to provide antecedent basis for the language of Claim 3. Accordingly, it is submitted that the claims as now amended fully comply with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Kinoshita and the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Akiba, it is to be noted that Claim 1 has now been amended to claim a mouth piece fixedly fitted in said manipulating head assembly fluid feed port and having an axial receptacle bore, a first connection port formed at an inner axial end of said mouth piece for connecting said first fluid conduit in communication with said receptacle bore and a second connection port provided at one side of said mouth piece for connecting said second

fluid conduit in communication with said receptacle bore. Claim 1 also claims a fluid supply adaptor having a fluid supply passage and being adapted to be inserted into said mouth piece to block a fluid flow from said second fluid conduit to said first fluid conduit and to feed a fluid from said fluid supply passage to said first fluid conduit; and a plug member fitted in an outer open end of said receptacle bore of said mouth piece in place of said fluid supply adaptor to bring said second connection port into communication with said first connection port through said receptacle bore.

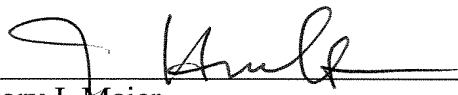
Applicant submits that the present invention clearly is distinguished from the references noted above cited by the Examiner in that a mouth piece is provided in a manipulating head assembly adapted to be mounted with a fluid supply adaptor or plug member, respectively, corresponding to the adaptor 20 and the plug member 30, for example, as discussed in the specification and illustrated in the figures. When the fluid supply adaptor is inserted into a receptacle bore of the mouth piece, a fluid supply passage formed in the fluid supply adaptor is communicated with the first fluid conduit, while a second fluid conduit is blocked from communication with the first fluid conduit. In this situation where the plug member is fitted into the mouth piece, the first and second fluid conduits are brought into communication with each other. Insofar as neither Kinoshita, Akiba nor any of the remaining references of record teach or disclose a fluid supply adaptor or a plug member for being fitted into a mouth piece of a manipulating head assembly as presently claimed, it is submitted that Claim 1 as well as all claims dependent therefrom patentably define over the prior art. In this regard, with respect to Akiba, a mouth piece is provided in the manipulating head assembly adapted to fit a syringe thereinto. However, the plug member of the present invention is not taught by such reference and instead a check valve is provided in Akiba for the mouth piece so that a pressure loss is caused upon supplying fluid by actuating the syringe disclosed therein.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that Claim 1 clearly patentably defines over Kinoshita, Akiba and the remaining references of record. Each of dependent Claims 2-8 contain additional limitations which, it is submitted, are not shown by the above-noted references. In view of these limitations and based upon the dependency of such claims either directly or indirect upon Claim 1, it is submitted that such dependent claims also merit indication of allowability.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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